

Powell Valley Neighborhood Association

Membership Meeting Minutes

November 10th, 2016

Officers:

President- Peter Showler, absent

Vice President- Jeff Muceus, present

Land Use Chair - vacant

Treasurer-Nichole Burns, absent

Secretary- Brooke Field, present

Guests:

Robert Spurlock-Metro

Shirley Cradick-Metro

Tina Ostering-City of Gresham

Councilor Kirk French-Gresham City Council

7:10 PM called to order at Greater Gresham Baptist Church, “The Rock” room.

A quorum was verified by Jeff. Approximately 36 members, including board members, present.

MOTION: Accept minutes from Member Meeting on January 28, 2016. Moved by Susan Ainsworth Smith, seconded by Regina Blake. Motion was Passed unanimously without corrections.

Treasurer’s report – Presented by Rebekah Burns due to the Treasurer being absent. The current balance is \$491.91 including an outstanding check for \$200 that was made out to Greater Gresham Baptist for last year’s National Night Out.

\$254.91 balance at beginning of the year

Incoming

+ \$30 donation for food

+ \$456 Gresham Grant

Outgoing

- \$250 spent on 2016 National Night Out

= \$490.91 ending balance with the \$200 check for Greater Gresham still outstanding leaving available balance at \$290.91.

President's Report – overview of the past year's activities of the NA:

- We had two East Gresham Park cleanups this year. We are applying for a grant through East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. The grant would go toward purchasing native plants to plant along the path and entry of the park to encourage native plants to grow and help define the pathway through the park. Joe Lagerstrom mentioned that the park is a point of pride for our neighborhood and the cleanups are a great way to connect with neighbors and establish a sense of community. Steve Solcz stated that if we, as community members, show some initiative in cleaning up the park, the City may recognize those efforts and then put more City resources toward the park if they become available.

MOTION: PVNA will continue to clean the East Gresham Park twice a year in order to keep blackberries and other invasives at bay. PVNA will apply for the EMSWCD grant and use grant monies toward purchasing and planting native plants. Moved by Jere Hudson. Rebekah Burns seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- National Night Out this year we had several small neighborhood block parties. Each small celebration was given some money from the Gresham grant we received to go toward food. Gatherings were well attended.

Old Business:

- **PVNA Subcommittee for Traffic and Pedestrian Safety- Susan Ainsworth Smith** There are concerns over safety on Powell Valley road. Traffic tends to speed on that stretch of road despite posted speed limits and school speed limit signs. School speed signs aren't very visible and traffic will only increase with new apartment building coming in on corner of Powell Valley and Kane. Barriers were provided to crossing guards but they are cumbersome and still don't provide enough visibility about the school zone. PVNA, Kelly Creek NA, and Gordon Russell Middle School are asking the City for a rapid flashing beacon. The quoted cost is about \$50,000-\$60,000. The flashing beacon would be a capital improvement project. **The City of Gresham Transportation Subcommittee will be meeting December 1st at 6:30pm.** Susan plans to bring this topic up for discussion at this meeting. Jere Hudson asked for an email to go out to the PVNA about this issue, Susan stated she would work on sending one out.

New Business:

Proposed meeting dates for 2017: Two dates were chosen for each meeting so we could see what worked best for meeting spaces and board members once elected.

PVNA Member meetings: March 2nd or 9th
November 2nd or 9th (election mtg)

East Gresham Park Cleanups: February 11th or 25th (for planting)
April 8th or 15th

Presentation: 40 mile Troutdale Gresham Trail- Robert Spurlock, Metro

Mr. Spurlock came from Metro to present a proposed route for the Troutdale Gresham Trail. The purpose of this trail is to connect existing trails to make a 40 mile loop connecting Troutdale and Gresham. It is being planned in partnership with Metro, Gresham and Troutdale. The proposed route would come through Powell Valley Neighborhood on Williams Rd. No immediate plans are in place for building the trail, this is a plan for the future so that when funds become available the project will be ready to move forward. Gresham, Troutdale and Metro will likely apply for grants for trail. Williams was chosen because it is a natural connection to Division. Path will provided a 12ft glorified sidewalk with improved safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Mr. Spurlock stated that the path will increase tourism, property values and offer safe options for transportation. Concerns during early planning meetings were around safety, homelessness, and camping. The proposed idea brought up many concerns from members of the neighborhood. Discussion on the topic was causing the meeting to run long, it was brought up that we needed to get elections done before allowing discussion of trail to go on too long.

MOTION: Pause the discussion about the trail to hold PVNA Board elections, then resume the discussion about the trail, going over the proposed one hour meeting time if needed. Moved by Sue Ruonala, seconded by Steve Solcz. Motion passed.

Board Position Elections:

Land Use: Sue Ruonala volunteered

Treasurer: Lynnea Roth volunteered

Secretary: Stella Butler, her husband Alan accepts on her behalf

Vice President: Jere Hudson nominated Rebekah Burns, who accepts

President: Sue Ruonala nominated Sue Ainsworth Smith, who accepts

MOTION: Elect board as a slate. Moved by Jere Hudson, seconded by Joe Lagerstrom. Board elected unanimously.

Continued discussion of Troutdale Gresham Trail

Below are a list of concerns that were voiced by members of the PVNA present at the meeting:

- Why can't they use Gresham to Fairview Trail?

- Mr. Spurlock answered that the trails serve different areas of the city, currently there isn't a trail serving east Gresham.
- Concern over steepness of Williams coming from Division. Troutdale road is less steep, trail should go through there or through other neighborhoods. Williams is an unsafe option
- There is a dip when coming out from neighborhoods onto Williams. Poor visibility already. Trail might make this less safe. Concern over being able to get out of driveway onto Williams safely.
- Cyclists often go too fast, with little concern for pedestrians, there should be laws for cyclists on paths.
- Concern over whether there will be room for the proposed 12ft path on Williams. Concern that it will infringe on people's property.
 - Mr. Spurlock assured citizens that there are already easements on either side of road and people's property will not be taken.
- Concern there won't be room for parking with trail
- Why not Troutdale road?
 - Mr. Spurlock stated that Troutdale road was initially an option, but it was decided it was too steep, too expensive due to terrain, and would be disruptive of creek and wildlife.
- Why not Kane?
 - It's a designated truck route.
- This will impact quality of residents' lives in a negative way. There are many homes and development going in, please think about people that live there. The rural setting and lack of traffic and people is why residents moved out to Williams.

Shirley Cradick from Metro stated that Williams is on the 20yr transportation plan to be a "collector road". This type of project could provide benefits and enhancements for safety prior to it becoming a big collector road.

- Homeless problem, how will this be addressed?
 - Mr. Spurlock answered that they plan to keep trail on streets, not secluded areas. Studies show homelessness poses more of a problem in secluded areas with low visibility.
- Homes on Williams already have small yards. Trees, fences and privacy will be gone with proposed trail.
 - Mr. Spurlock answered that fences are on private property and therefore will not be impacted. Trees may initially come down but plan is to increase number of trees from what is planted currently.
- Why does the trail need to be 12ft wide?
 - Mr. Spurlock answered that the 12ft is a City policy
- As a taxpayer, not willing to spend money on this project, cons outweigh the benefits
- Concern that residents felt that this was sprung on them. “Why don’t we have a say? Why can’t we vote on this? We haven’t been able to give input”
- Proposed that trail go Kane to 8th to El Camino to Paloma.
 - Mr. Spurlock answered that stakeholders of project want separate path, not a shared roadway.

There is a public open house **January 19th at MHCC** to discuss the plans. Then the final plan will be presented to the City of Gresham by March.

Jeff thanked Greater Gresham Baptist for the meeting space and Gresham Shari’s for donating three pies!

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM

Submitted by Brooke Field

Secretary - Powell Valley Neighborhood Association